

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. **(original)** A closure apparatus comprising:

a base comprising a post, said base further comprising a wall that defines an opening;

a lever rotatably secured to said base such that an upward force on a rearward portion of said lever is adapted to cause said lever to rotate about an axis thereby disengaging a frontward portion of said lever from said wall of said base; and

a cover rotatably connected to said base such that said cover has an axis of rotation approximately perpendicular to said axis of rotation of said lever, said cover comprising an annular structure extending around said post;

wherein said annular structure is adapted to detach from said cover when said cover is rotated away from said base such that said annular structure remains on said post.

18. **(original)** The closure apparatus of claim 17 wherein said annular structure is a ring.

19. **(currently amended)** A container comprising:

a substantially rectangular surface; and

a closure apparatus secured to said substantially rectangular surface near an edge thereof, said closure apparatus comprising:

a base comprising a post, the base further comprising a wall that defines ~~having~~ an opening; ~~and~~

a lever rotatably secured ~~connected~~ to said base such that an upward force on a rearward portion of the lever is adapted to cause the lever to rotate about an axis thereby disengaging a frontward portion of the lever from the wall of the base; and ~~said lever having a plane of rotation that is substantially perpendicular to the edge, said lever having a proximal portion and a distal portion relative to said edge;~~

~~wherein an upward force on said distal portion of said lever causes said proximal portion to depress into said substantially rectangular surface such that an opening is created in said substantially rectangular surface beneath said opening of said base~~

a cover rotatably connected to the base such that the cover has an axis of rotation approximately perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the lever, the cover comprising an annular structure extending around the post;

wherein the annular structure is adapted to detach from said cover when said cover is rotated away from said base such that the annular structure remains on said post.

20. **(original)** The container of claim 19 wherein the rearward ~~said distal~~ portion of ~~the said~~ lever is longer than the frontward ~~said proximal~~ portion of the ~~said~~ lever to facilitate the creation of an ~~said~~ opening in the ~~said~~ substantially rectangular surface.

21. **(new)** The container of claim 19 wherein the annular structure is a ring.